GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:226
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Land under Cultivation
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav;Misra Shri Pinaki

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cultivation including the percentage of sown area dependent on monsoon during the last two Plans periods and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether there are reports of extensive fragmentation in land holdings, change in land use from agriculture to non-agricultural purposes and decline in farm land in the country and if so, the extent thereof during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether decline in cultivable area has an adverse impact on agricultural production and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to address the problems of agriculture in small and fragmented land-holdings and promote co-operative farming and if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expand the cultivable land and the outcome thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 226 DUE FOR REPLY ON 2ND AUGUST, 2016.

(a): State/UT-wise details of average area under cultivation(cultivable land) alongwith percentage of net sown area dependent on monsoon rainfall (rain fed area) during the last two Plan Periods i.e. 2002-03 to 2006-07, 2007-08 to 2011-12 and the same for the year 2013-14 (latest available) are at Annexures I(A) & I(B).

(b): As per report on Agriculture Census for 2010-11(latest available), the average size of operational holding has declined from 1.33 ha in 2000-01 to 1.15 ha in 2010-11. State/UT-wise details of average size of land holding during 2000-01, 2005-06 and 2010-11 are at Annexure II. State/UT-wise details of change in area put to non-agriculture uses and decline in farm land (cultivable land) between tenth plan period average and 2013-14 are at Annexure III.
(c) & (d): Since agriculture is a State subject, it is responsibility of States to take necessary steps for holistic development of agriculture and improve the conditions of farmers based on local needs and priorities. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through assistance under different Crop Development Schemes /Progammes. In order to boost agricultural production and productivity of agricultural crops, Government of India is implementing through State Governments various Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) etc.
Despite marginal decline in the cultivable area, the agricultural production in the country has been increasing except in the years affected by drought, floods, and other natural calamities.
Contdâ€¦2/-

Under the crop development Schemes/Programmes of the government, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Farm mechanization, issuance of Soil Health Cards etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources. All these initiatives are oriented towards small and marginal farmers in the country.

Further, small and marginal farmers are encouraged to organize themselves into registered Self-help Groups (SHGs), Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) etc. to derive benefit of economies of scale in farming operations. Such groups are also provided credit for agricultural activities as Joint Liability Groups(JLGs)

(e): As per Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

In order to bring additional area under cultivable land, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas. From 2015-16, the IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

Government of India is also implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with a view to prevent soil erosion, land degradation and also to maintain balance in various types of land uses across the country. Under this Mission, all type of land including wasteland/barren land are developed with suitable need based soil and water conservation measures and partly such degraded lands developed are put to agricultural uses.